

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the last three paragraphs of the specification (from line 6, page 108, until line 14, page 109) with the following paragraphs rewritten in amendment format:

As has been explained, according to the present invention, the benefit is obtained that, by performing the compression in the time domain while pruning the features of the database signal in advance, it is possible to greatly reduce the number of indices while ensuring that false dismissal do not occur, so that, in comparison with well-known methods, it is possible to perform signal retrieval at higher speed.

Note that it would also be possible to perform the signal compression procedure or the signal retrieval procedure by recording a program for implementing the function of each of the processing sections in FIGS. 1 through 4 upon a recording medium capable of being read in by a computer system, and by causing this program which has been recorded upon the recording medium to be read in by a computer system, thus causing the program to be executed. Note that, by the term "computer system", it is intended to include an operating system and hardware such as various peripheral devices. Furthermore, in the case of utilization of the WWW system, the term "computer system" is intended also to encompass a presentation environment (or a display environment) for a home page. Yet further, the term "recording medium capable of being read in by a computer system" is intended to encompass an item of transportable media such as a flexible disk, an opto-magnetic disk, a ROM, a CD-ROM or the like, or a storage device provided within a computer system such as a hard disk or the like. Even further, the term "recording medium capable of being read in by a computer system" is also

intended to include the case in which the program is retained for a certain time period, such as the case in which, when the program is transmitted via a network such as the Internet or the like, or via a transmission line such as a telephone line or the like, it is held in a volatile memory (RAM) within a computer system which functions as a server or a client.

~~Moreover, the above described program may be transmitted from a computer system upon which this program is stored in a storage device or the like to another computer system via a transmitting medium, or by a transmission wave within a transmitting medium. Here, the term "transmission medium" which transmits the program is intended to mean a medium which is endowed with the function of transmitting information, such as a network (a communication network) such as the Internet or the like, or a transmission line such as a telephone line or the like.~~ Furthermore, the above described program may be one for implementing only a portion of the above described function. Yet further, it would be acceptable to implement the above described function via a differential file (a differential program) which was able to do so in combination with a program which was already recorded in a computer system.